



**Colorado woman, inspired by QAnon conspiracy, sought to kidnap her own child, police say**

The woman had "gotten into some conspiracy theories and she was 'spiraling down it'" after her child was removed from her custody, her other child told police.

# Extraction Exercise

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY—BENTLEY UNIVERSITY

One of the key skills that we want to learn, and continuously hone, is our ability to see “The Big Picture” in any story. Sociology is about being able to see how things are interconnected, and how (social) systems are those forces that shape and influence our lives.

Toward that end, we want to practice how we can “extract” larger topics and themes from stories that we are experiencing. These can be news stories, television shows, movies, documentaries, art exhibits, songs, or anything else from which we can learn.

Here are the steps that I ask each group to go through as part of this exercise.

1. **STORY SHARING**—Each person in the group share a quick summary of the story s/he brought in. (± 5 mins)
2. **STORY SELECTION**—As a group select two stories that you want to work on in terms of extracting larger themes and topics. You can either just voice vote, giving each person two votes (and totaling the top two), or some other means of selection. (± 1 minute)
3. **ELEMENT EXTRACTION**—Have the story ‘owner’ re-present the story, providing more detail. Then on a piece of paper, start to list ANY potential topics or themes related to the course that you think are relevant. (± 10–15 minutes)
4. **REPORT OUT**— Each group will then report out what themes and topics they listed as potentially related to their story. (± 10 minutes)
5. **TALLY UP**—We will see how many themes and topics overlap between different stories, and discuss what that means in terms of important factors and forces in the social system.

Remember, our goal for this exercise is not to provide the “right” answers, but to think about all the possible questions. Think tangentially about those things that could possibly be related, and how they are potentially related.